Gold Reserves

124. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have identified the gold reserves for exploration in Chhattisgarh, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Orissa, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, whether private players have evinced interest in participating in the exploration;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) how much gold is expected to be produced by these mines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY): (a) As per National Mineral Inventory prepared by Indian Bureau of Mines, as on 1.4.2005, the total resources of gold ore (Primary) available in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Karnataka, Orissa, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan are as under:

(in million tonnes)

State	Total resources
Andhra Pradesh	12.09
Chhattisgarh	0.90
Karnataka	66.17
Orissa	—
Madhya Pradesh	7.32
Rajasthan	65.59

(b) to (d) Thirty prior approvals have been conveyed by the Central Government for grant of reconnaissance permits and prospecting licences for exploration of gold to private companies in the country since 01.04.2004 to 31.3.2007. Details of the same are available at the website of Ministry of Mines (http://mines.nic.in). The production of gold depends on mining which would commence only after exploration activities are completed.

Mining contracts by BALCO

†125. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the companies which were awarded contract by Bharat Aluminium Company Ltd. (BALCO) on the 11th December, 1999 and 29th April, 2002 for bauxite mining from the mines of Menpat in Sarguja district of Chhattisgarh and to supply it to Korba Aluminium Plant;

(b) the names of the companies, out of then, which completed the work on time as per the agreement;

(c) the names of each company whose amount is outstanding with Bharat Aluminium Company Ltd. (BALCO), Chhattisgarh and since when it is outstanding; and

(d) the reasons of non-payment to them till now and by when the amount would be paid?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.